

It is also considered that when there are aldermen who are competent and suitable for the office they should have the preference.

It will take nearly a year for an outsider to gain such a knowledge of routine and details of civic business as will enable him to give efficient service to the city.

Moreover, the fact that an alderman is considered to have the first claim on the mayoralty will be an encouragement to the better class of our citizens to serve on the City Council.

We earnestly hope the time will never come when religion or politics will be a serious element in a contest for this dignity.

• • • • •

**MAYORALTY CANDIDATES.**—We learn that Alderman Sadler has decided not to be a candidate for the mayor's chair. We also understand that a petition will be presented to Alderman Ekers who comes next in seniority as a member of the City Council asking him to become a candidate. Alderman Ekers has always attended to his civic duties and been zealous for the interests of the city.

• • • • •

**TO KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR OF SNOW** it is suggested that the work be undertaken by the Corporation, and the cost thereof be levied upon the occupants of premises fronting the street. This proposal is well worthy of being favourably considered by our civic authorities.

• • • • •

**A SPECIAL LOAN** for cost of putting and keeping the streets in proper order is also entitled to consideration. The consolidated debt limit ought not to be enlarged, but a temporary loan spread over a number of years repayable by a special tax would probably be desirable. We should like to see alderman going to Quebec to secure power to levy an additional  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1 p.c. which would prove sufficient for all administrative purposes. Small, petty taxes are very aggravating and their revenue is small. A real estate tax is bound to come in time and it is wanted now.

• • • • •

**SUPPLY OF LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER.**—In regard to the question involved in the future supply of light, heat and power to this city by gas and electricity our suggestions are, that a franchise over a moderate term of years be granted the company, which, in return, should be required to pay the city a percentage of its profits, after providing for fixed charges, a sinking fund, and a dividend to shareholders of 5 per cent.

The city's share of profits might pass into the general civic revenue, or be used by special arrangement with the company, towards reducing the price of light, heat and power. The city should be re-

presented on the company's Board of Directors, and a certain amount of stock might be secured in order to acquire the rights of a shareholder. It would be necessary to employ an outside independent expert auditor to ascertain the amount of the profits.

This suggestion has been freely discussed in various circles and we believe it contains the elements out of which a solution of this vexed question can be arrived at.

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LAKE OF THE WOODS MILLING COMPANY** will be held on Wednesday next, the 4th October, when it is understood that a satisfactory statement will be presented, and that after paying a dividend of 3 p.c., which with the 3 p.c. already paid last July, places the stock for the year on a 6 p.c. basis, as well as the 1 p.c. on account of the previous broken period. That is to say, after paying the shareholders 4 p.c. on the 2nd October, a surplus will be carried forward. The anonymous circular fiend has been endeavouring to impair the stock, but investors generally take no notice whatever of unauthorized and anonymous circulars. The waste paper basket is the proper place for them. From all we can gather the affairs of the company are in good shape, and its future prospects excellent. It is controlled at the present time by directors who are well known and capable business men, and we venture to assert that there are few in the Dominion who know more about the wheat and flour business than Mr. Robert Meighen, the president of the company.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC STAMP TAX.**—The manner in which this tax is hindering and hampering Stock Exchange transactions is becoming more apparent and vexatious every day. In our opinion, when business becomes active, it will simply become unworkable. Week after week we have referred to various phases in connection with it, and urged upon the members of the Stock Exchange the desirability of making representation to the Provincial Treasurer and the Cabinet of the injury that it is doing, and which it is sure in the future to do in a more aggravated form, to the Stock Exchange business in this province. From a financial standpoint the tax is against the best interests of the province. It will check the expansion of Montreal as a financial centre. Outsiders will naturally hesitate about purchasing Province of Quebec securities with the question of this Stamp Tax hanging over them, and will certainly avoid transacting their business in Montreal. In other words, it will drive capital away from Montreal, and there is no reasonable amount of money that would pay, from a public standpoint, for this being done. It is easy to drive business away, but a much slower process to recall it again. This is apart altogether from any legal aspect, and the writer is quite satisfied that if united